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H – 3793

International Court of Justice

H3793 - 0002

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL

I, David Patrick Maxwell Fyfe, hereby certify that the document annexed hereto and numbered UK 66 is an official British Governmental document,

~~a report of the United Nations,~~

~~an act or document of a committee set up for the investigation of war crimes,~~

~~a record or finding of a Tribunal of the United Nations,~~

within the meaning of Article 21 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal.

~~a document made by a person in the employment of the British Government in the ordinary course of his duties, and that such person was in a position and under a duty to make all reasonable investigations relating to the subject matter thereof.~~

(signed) D. P. Maxwell Fyfe

(date) 19th November 1945

(strike out and initial all words not applicable).

946

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H3793 - 0003

A.G.3.

UK 66

The British War Crimes Section of the Allied Force Headquarters has investigated fully a number of cases of German reprisals for partisan activity in Italy, committed between April and November, 1944. In addition it has been established that information received from many sources on a further large number of atrocities committed between March 1944 and April 1945, is substantially correct.

A study of all these cases reveals that there is a striking similarity in the facts. The incident invariably opens with the killing or wounding of a German soldier or soldiers by partisans; reprisal activity is then initiated either by the troops immediately on the spot or in more serious cases, by the arrival of definite units and formations specially detailed for the purpose. There is no taking of hostages in the normal sense of the word, but a number of people are selected haphazardly from the local population and are killed by shooting or hanging, whilst whole villages or certain farms or houses are destroyed by fire. In a number of cases an announcement is then made to the population that the action taken was a reprisal for the death of a German soldier and will be repeated should further attacks on Germans take place.

A typical example is the CIVITELLA atrocity, one of those cases which has been completely investigated. Partisan Bands had been operating in the area, attacking lone German lorries and motor cycles. On JUNE 18th, 1944, two German soldiers were killed and a third wounded in a fight with Partisans in the village of CIVITELLA. Fearing reprisals, the inhabitants evacuated the village but when the Germans discovered this, punitive action was postponed. On JUNE 29th, 1944, when the local inhabitants were returning and were feeling secure once more, the Germans carried out a well organised reprisal, combing the neighbourhood. Innocent inhabitants were often shot on sight. During that day 212 men, women and children in the immediate district were killed. Some of the dead women were found completely naked. In the course of investigations, a nominal roll of the dead has been compiled, and is complete with the exception of a few names where bodies could not be identified. Ages of the dead ranged from 1 year to 84 years. Approximately 100 houses were destroyed by fire; some of the victims were burned alive in their homes.

On DECEMBER 16th, 1942, KEITEL issued an order relating to the combatting of Partisans. This order was captured in Crete. (A copy, with English translation, is annexed hereto and marked 'A').

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On JUNE 17th and JULY 1st, 1944, KESSELRING issued orders on this subject. (Copies; with English translations, are annexed hereto and marked 'B' and 'C'). Document 'B' was found at KESSELRING's H.Q., after the surrender of the German Forces, whilst Document 'C' was found amongst the records of the Ortskommandatur, Castiglione dei Popoli, Nr. BOLOGNA. Other evidence of the issue of this second order to German formations has been found.

A comparison of Documents 'A', 'B', and 'C' makes it clear that KESSELRING's orders were in accordance with a policy laid down by the Supreme Command. Documents are held proving that this general policy was dictated to lower commands in the German Army in Italy.

Evidence has been found to show that a large number of the atrocities in Italy was committed by the HERMANN GOERING PARACHUTE PANZER DIVISION. Notable offenders also were 1 PARACHUTE DIVISION, 16 SS PANZER GRENADIER DIVISION and 114 Light DIVISION.

The orders of the German Command were made known to the local population in a series of notices which were exhibited in towns and villages throughout German-occupied Italy and were published in newspapers. (A specimen copy of a typical Notice to the inhabitants of COVOLO is annexed hereto and marked 'D')

In the cases on which reliable information is held, it is considered that a conservative estimate of the number of persons who met their deaths at the hands of the German soldiery, is more than 7, 500 men, women and children ranging in years from infancy to extreme old age. In the Ardeatine Caves case in Rome, alone, 335 men were shot. Many other reports have not yet been substantiated, but it is certain that the total of innocent Italian civilians who were killed in such reprisals is very much greater than the number given above.

WAR A.G.S. OFFICE

B 039811

H3793 - 0005

A P P E N D I X.

Sources of information on which this report is based.

1. 127 German official documents collected by A.F.H.Q.

2. Official A.F.H.Q. reports resulting from the investigation of the following atrocity cases:

PLACE.	DATE.
Ardeatine Caves, ROME.	24th March, 1944.
GUARDISTALLO	29th June, 1944.
FUCECCHIO MARSHES	6th July to 23rd August, 1944.
RIFREDA CASTELLO	5th August, 1944.
COMMUNE of CAVRIGLIA	4th, 8th and 11th July, 1944.
BUCINE	7th, 8th and 9th July, 1944.
CIVITELLA	29th June, 1944.
BADICROCE	30th June to 17th July, 1944.
PALAZZO DEL PERO	24th June, 1944.
SAN POLA	14th July, 1944.
CASTIGLION FIBOCCHI	11th July, 1944.
S. GIUSTINO VALDARNO	6th July, 1944.
QUOTA	9th to 11th July, 1944.
PARTINA MOSCAIO	13th April, 1944.
MONTEMIGNAIO	20th to 29th June, 1944.
STIA-VALLUCCIOLE Valley	13th to 18th April, 1944.
SARSINA	28th September, 1944.
VERRUCHIO	21st September, 1944.
VILLA DEL ALBERO, RAVENNA	27th November, 1944.
PADULIVO	10th, and 11th July, 1944.
GUBBIO	20th to 23rd June, 1944.

WAR CRIMES OFFICE

B 039812

H3793 – 0006

Anlage zu 3.Ausfertigung
Nr.B.Nr.71/42 g.Kdos.v.1.1.1943
Chefr.u.Rechtsber.b.O.K.W.

Abschrift der Abschrift

Der Chef
des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht
Nr.004870/42g.Kdos.WFSt./Op.(N)

Q.Qu., den 16.12.1942

Betr.: Bandenbekämpfung.

Geheime Kommandosache !

Dem Führer liegen Meldungen vor, dass einzelne in der Bandenbekämpfung eingesetzte Angehörige der Wehrmacht wegen ihres Verhaltens im Kampf nachträglich zur Rechenschaft gezogen worden sind.

Der Führer hat hierzu befohlen:

1.) Der Feind setzt im Bandenkampf fanatische, kommunistisch geschulte Kämpfer ein, die vor keiner Gewalttat zurückschrecken. Es geht hier mehr denn je um Sein oder Nichtsein. Mit Soldatischer Ritterlichkeit oder mit den Vereinbarungen in der Genfer Konvention hat dieser Kampf nichts mehr zu tun.

Wenn dieser Kampf gegen die Banden sowohl im Osten wie auf dem Balkan nicht mit den allerbrutalsten Mitteln geführt wird, so reichen in absehbarer Zeit die verfügbaren Kräfte nicht mehr aus, um dieser Pest Herr zu werden.

Die Truppe ist daher berechtigt und verpflichtet, in diesem Kampf ohne Einschränkung auch gegen Frauen und Kinder jedes Mittel anzuwenden, wenn es nur zum Erfolg führt.

Rücksichten, gleich welcher Art, sind ein Verbrechen gegen das deutsche Volk und den Soldaten an der Front, der die Folgen der Bandenanschläge zu tragen hat und keinerlei Verständnis für irgendwelche Schonung der Banden und ihrer Mitläufer haben kann.

Diese Grundsätze müssen auch die Anwendung der " Kampfanweisung für die Bandenbekämpfung im Osten " beherrschen.

2.) Kein in der Bandenbekämpfung eingesetzter Deutscher darf wegen seines Verhaltens im Kampf gegen die Banden und ihre Mitläufer disziplinarisch oder kriegsgerichtlich zur Rechenschaft gezogen werden.
Die Befehlshaber der im Bandenkampf eingesetzten Truppen sind dafür verantwortlich, dass
sämtliche Offiziere der ihnen unterstellten Einheiten über diesen Befehl ungehemmt in der eindringlichsten Form belehrt werden,
ihre Rechtsberater von diesem Befehl sofort Kenntnis erhalten,
keine Urteile bestätigt werden, die diesem Befehl widersprechen.

gez. K e i t e l
F. d. R. d.A.

F.d.R.d.A.d.A.

gez. Unterschrift
Hauptmann

Oberkriegsgerichtsrat d.Lw.

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3.) Die Verantwortlichkeit für die gesamte Bandenbekämpfung im ital. Raum und die grundlegende Anordnung gemäss obigen Bezugsbefehls bleiben nach wie vor mit folgenden Abänderungen in Kraft:

A.O.K.10 und 14 sind innerhalb ihrer Armeebereiche, Armeeabt. v. Zangen innerhalb der Küstengebiete in einer Tiefe von 30 km verantwortlich für die gesamte Bandenbekämpfung. Die Aufgaben des Befh. i.d.Op.Zone adriat.Küstenland für die Küstenverteidigung (gemäss Führeranweisung 40) werden durch diese Regelung nicht berührt.

Im übrigen ital. Gebiet führt der Höchst. SS- u.Pol.Führer verantwortlich nach meinen Weisungen die Bandenbekämpfung durch. Einzelheiten in der territorialen Abgrenzung bei der Festlegung des 30 km breiten Streifens in den Küstengebieten sind zwischen dem Höchst. SS- u.Pol.Führer u. Armeeabteilung v. Zangen unmittelbar zu regeln.

Armeegrenze zwischen A.O.K.14 bezw. A.O.K.10 zu Armeeabt. v. Zangen Quercianella (nördl. Rosignano) - Certaldo - Figline - Sansepolcro - von dort Verlauf der Strasse 73 bis Fano (Strasse für A.O.K.10)

4.) Truppen zur Bandenbekämpfung:

Hier sind zu unterscheiden:

a) Truppenteile (Polizeikräfte Regierungstruppe Böhmen und Mähren usw.) die ausschliesslich für den aktiven oder passiven Bandenkampf eingesetzt werden. Sie unterstehen dem Höchst. SS- u. Pol.Führer Italien.

b) Jagdkommandos und Bewachungskräfte: Hierzu sind von allen zurückgezogenen Verbänden, Stäben und Dienststellen Jagdkommandos aufzustellen, zu bewaffnen und zu schulen, die den örtlichen Kommandobehörden, Kommandanturen, Kampfkommandanten, SS-Dienststellen auf Anforderung vorbehaltlos zur Verfügung zu stellen sind. Ausserhalb der Armeegrenzen und des 30 km breiten Küstenstreifens sind sie auf Antrag dem Höchst. SS- u.Pol.Führer, soweit es die Lage und ihre sonstigen Aufgaben zulassen, weitestgehend für die Bandenbekämpfung zur Verfügung zu stellen. Die örtliche Führung der einzelnen Bandenunternehmen im Bereich des Höchst. SS- u.Pol.Führers, bei denen auch Teile der Wehrmacht zum Einsatz kommen, obliegt je nach dem Kräfteverhältnis und der Beteiligungsstärken der Wehrmacht oder Polizei. Verantwortlich für die Gesamtleitung selbst ist der Höchst. SS- u. Pol.Führer Italien.

c) Jeder Ortskommandant ist für die Sicherung seines Ortes und dessen unmittelbarer Umgebung ebenfalls voll verantwortlich im Hinblick auf die Bandenbekämpfung.
Die Mil.-Kommandanturbereiche sind in Sicherungsabschnitte aufzuteilen, in denen der für diese Aufgabe gewandteste Führer der Wehrmacht, SS oder Polizei einzuteilen ist. Er bürgt voll verantwortlich für die Sicherheit in seinem Abschnitt. Ihm stehen alle Alarmeinheiten, Jagdkommandos usw. auf Anforderung bei den Örtl. Führern zur Verfügung. Schnelles Handeln verbürgt Überraschung und Erfolg. Besonders längs der Hauptnachschubstrassen sind innerhalb der Armeen bezw. Armeeabteilung v. Zangen derartige Sicherungskommandanten mit festen Aufträgen einzuteilen. Innerhalb des übrigen Gebietes sind diese Sicherungskommandanten in Zusammenarbeit mit der Armeeabt. v. Zangen und dem Bev. General durch den Höchst. SS- u. Pol.Führer einzuteilen. Sie erhalten ihre Aufträge unbeschadet der

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Zugehörigkeit zu einem Kohrmachtteil in diesem Gebiet durch den Höchst. [illegible] - u. Pol. Führer.

d) Die Bekämpfung von Fallschirmjägern ist ebenso wie die Bandenbekämpfung zu handhaben.

5.) Sobald folgender Verkehrsverbindungen steht in erst Dringlichkeit:

a) Bahnstrecken (südl. des Po):

1) Alessandria - Genua - La Spezia - Livorno - Cecina
2) Cremona - Fornova - Borgo val di Taro - La Spezia
3) Casalmaggiore - Parma - Fornova
4) Ostiglia - Bologna - Pistoia
5) Ferrara - Bologna - Prato - Florenz
6) Florenz - Empoli - Siena - Chiusi
7) Florenz - Arezzo - Terontola - Chiusi
8) Terontola - Perugia - Foligno
9) Fano - Fermignano - Fabriano
10.) Ancona - Fabriano - Foligno
11.) Aquata Scrivia - Tortona - Piacenza - Parma - Modena - Bologna - Rimini - Ancona - Civitanova
12.) Viareggio - Lucca - Pistoia - Prato - Florenz
13.) Pisa - Empoli - Florenz

b) Strassenzüge:

1) Tortona - Genua (35)
2) Piacenza - Genua (45)
3) Parma - Sarzana (62)
4) Reggio - Sarzana (63)
5) Pivizzano - Castelnuovo - Bagni di Lucca
6) Modena - Lucca (12)
7) Bologna - Pistoia - Florenz (64, 66)
8) Bologna - Florenz (65)
9) Forli - Florenz (67)
10) Forli - Meldola - Bagno - Sansepolcro - Umbertide - Perugia
11) Cesena - Bibbiena - Arezzo (71)
12) Fano - Urbino - Arezzo (73)
13) Fano - Foligno (3)
14) Ancona - Fabriano - Fossato (76)
15) Ancona - Loreto - Macerata - Foligno (16,77)
16) Pontedera - Volterra - Saline - Massa Maritima - Follonica
17) Empoli - Poggibonsi - Siena - Radicofani (2)
18) Florenz - Poggibonsi - Giesa Cecina (2,68)
19) Florenz - Impruneta - Radda - Castelnuovo - Sinalunga
20) Florenz - Arezzo - Perugia (69,75)
21) Arezzo - Siena - Monte Piscali (73)
22) Florenz - Bibbiena (70)
23) Forli - Meldola - Bagno - Sansepolcro - Umbertide - Perugia
24) Rimini - Pesaro - Ancona - Civitanova.

WAR A.G.S. OFFICE

H3793 – 0009

8 Ausfertigungen
1. Ausfertigung.

Geheime Kommandosache

Durchschlag an:

O.B. Südwest / O.Qu.
" / Kdtl H.Qu.
" / III
" / OT Verb.Führer (2x)
" / Kdt.d.techn.Truppen
" / Gen.z.b.V. d. Pion.-Bau/Verk. in Gr. H.Qu.

Adriatisches Küstenland
Eing. 18. AUG 1944
Abteilung
Nr. / geh. Ados

17.6.44

1.) A.O.K.10
2.) .O.K.14
3.) Armeeabt. v.Zangen
4.) Bev.Gen.d.dt.Wehrm. in Italien
5.) Luftfl.Kdo.2
6.) Dt.Marinekommando Italien
7.) Höchst. SS- u.Pol.Führer Italien
8.) Gen.d.Transp.Wesens Italien
9.) Bevollmächtigter des Grossdeutschen Reiches bei der ital. Regierung, Herrn Botschafter Rahn
10.) Stab R.u.K.

Bezug: FS. O.B.Südwest / Ia Nr. 4968/44 g.Kdos. v. 10.5.44.

Betr.: Neuregelung in der Bandenbekämpfung.

1.) Die Bandenlage im ital. Raum, insbesondere in Mittelitalien, hat sich in kurzer Zeit derart verschärft, dass sie eine ernste Gefahr für die kämpfende Truppe und ihre Versorgung sowie die Rüstungswirtschaft bildet.

Der Kampf gegen die Banden muss daher mit allen zur Verfügung stehenden Mitteln und mit grösster Schärfe durchgeführt werden. Ich werde jeden Führer decken, der in der Wahl und Schärfe des Mittels bei der Bekämpfung der Banden über das bei uns übliche zurückhaltende Mass hinausgeht. Auch hier gilt der alte Grundsatz, dass ein Fehlgreifen in der Wahl der Mittel, sich durchzusetzen, immer noch besser ist, als Unterlassung und Nachlässigkeit. Nur sofortiges schärfstes Eingreifen ist geeignet, als Straf- und Abschreckungsmassnahme Ausschreitungen grösseren Umfanges von Anfang an im Keime zu ersticken. Alle im Zuge der Bandenbekämpfung anfallenden Zivilpersonen, die im Rahmen von Vergeltungsmassnahmen festgenommen werden, sind den hierfür durch O.B.Südwest O.Qu., einzurichtenden Sammellagern, zum Abschub ins Reich als Arbeiter zuzuführen. Standorte der Sammellager werden noch befohlen.

2.) Der Kampf gegen die Banden gliedert sich in den passiven und den aktiven Kampf, wobei der Schwerpunkt auf der aktiven Kampfführung liegt.

Der passive Kampf besteht in dem örtlichen Schutz wichtiger Kunstbauten an Eisenbahnen und Strassen, sowie lebenswichtigen Anlagen wie Kraftwerke, Fabriken usw.

Auch der passive Kampf muss örtlich begrenzt um die zu schützenden Objekte aktiv geführt werden, d.h. zum Beispiel, dass Spähtrupps das Vorgelände einer zu schützenden Anlage ständig überwachen.
Der aktive Kampf in den bandenverseuchten Gebieten wird besonders dort zu führen sein, wo es gilt, den Lebensnerv der Wehrmacht zu erhalten. Die Banden sind anzugreifen und zu vernichten. Aufklärung in die Bandengruppen hinein (auch Ansatz von V-Männern) ist von besonderer Wichtigkeit.

31 32 33

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Anmerkung z. Anlage Skizze:

1) Castelnuovo – Pierpaolo
2) Poretta – Teglio – Mitoin
3) [illegible] – Cortiglione – Tanto
4) Enola – Pirounola – S. Pino
5) Poggio – Corpo S. Lorenzo – Taverna
6) Santarcangelo – Sanrapolore
7) Porraro – Urbino

Zur Klarheit der an den Sehnstrichen zu bezeichnenden Punkten und Anlagen sind zwischen den Armeen, Armeeabteilung v. Zangen, OKdoLt. [illegible] – u. Pol.-Führer einerseits, sowie Gen. Kdo. z. Z. andererseits in unmittelbaren Einvernehmen Festlegungen.(OKdoLt. [illegible] – u. Pol. wird eine Aufstellung zugeleitet). Sicherung der Punkten entlang der Straßenzüge innerhalb der Armeegebiete und den OKdoTruppen übernehmen verantwortlich die Armeen bezw. Armeegr. v. Zangen, außerhalb der Armeegebiete das OKdoLt. [illegible] – u. Pol.-Führer Italien. Hierzu hält er enge Verbindung mit G.B.-OKdoWest/Gen d. Pi.

6.) Wegen Sicherung von lebenswichtigen Betrieben (Elektrizitätswerke, Kraftwerke, Industriewerke usw.) setzt sich Kdr.d.Techn. Truppen und Stab B.u.K. mit OKdoLt. [illegible] – und Pol.-Führer Italien bezw. den Armeen und Armeegr. v. Zangen unmittelbar in Verbindung.

7.) Zur weiteren Sicherung des Apennin sind durch die Armeen schon jetzt beginnend aufzubereitende Verkehrsbefehle, Feldkommandanturen, Brücken usw. gestaffelter Kampfanweisung für "Alarmfall" an die Hauptpässe und entlang der Hauptstraßenzüge durch den Apennin zu verlegen.
Mit der Zeit muß hierdurch eine durchlaufende Sicherungsfront in allen Verkehrsräumen entstehen.

8.) OKdoLt. [illegible] – u. Pol.-Führer Italien wird gebeten, bis 25.6. an O.K.W./Wkwirt eine Karte 1:300.000 mit Einzeichnungen seiner Sicherungsabschnitte, Sicherungstruppen, zuständigen örtlichen Sicherungsabschnitts-Kommandeuren (Bandenbekämpfungsstäbe) usw. vorzulegen.

Ko n n e l r i n g

O.K.W. Wkwirt Ia T Nr. 0402/44 g.Kdos.

Oberleutnant i. G.

B 039817

A.Gr.B.

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C

A bschrift von A bschrift.

G.Kdos.
Kh WAAJ/C 00104/06 1/7. 1210

A n Leitkommanda ntur Bologna

Betr.:Bandenbekaempfung.
Bezug:Fernschreiben Ia Nr.12099/44 geh.

(Na ch Einga ng als g.Kdos zu behandeln)vom 20.6.44

In Erweiterung zu o.a.Bezugsbefehl ha t der OB.Suedwest befohlen:
Inmeinem A ufruf an die Italiener habe ich den Bandenkampf mit den schaerfsten Mitteln angekuendigt.Diese Ankuendigung darf keine leere Drohung sein.Ich mache es allen Solda ten und Polizeisoldaten meines Befehlsbereichs zur Pflicht,im Tatfa ll die schaerfsten Mittel zur Anwendung zu bringen.Jeder Gewaltakt der Banden ist sofort zu ahnden. Aus der eingereichten Meldung muss auch die eigene Gegenmassnahme zu er sehen sein.Wo Ba nden in groesserer Zahl auftreten,ist der in diesem Bezirk wohnende jeweils zu bestimmende Prozentsatz der maennlichen Bevoelkerung festzunehmen,und bei vorkommenden Gewalttaetigkeiten zu erschiessen.Dies ist den Einwohnern bekanntzugeben.Werden Soldaten usw.aus Ortschaften beschossen,so ist die Ortschaft niederzubrennen. Taeter oder Raedelsfuehrer sind oeffentlich aufzuhaengen.
Fuer Kabelsabotage und Ausstreuen von Reifenzerstoerungen sind die in unmittelbarer Nache befindlichen Ortschaften haftba r zu machen. Sicherung durch Streifen aus den Ortsbewohnern ist das beste Gegenmittel.Die Angehoerigen der faschistischen Partei sind von jeder Suehnemassnahme auszuschliessen.Verdaechtige Personen sind dem Pra efekten unter Meldung an mich zu ueberantworten.Jeder Solda t hat sich ausserha lb von Ortschaften durch Tragen einer Schusswaffe selbst zu schuetzen.Ausserdem sind durch die Territorialbefehlshaber die Staedte festzulegen,in denen auch innerhalb der Stadtgrenzen eine Schusswaffe getragen werden muss.Jede Art von Pluenderung ist untersagt und wird aufs strengste geahndet.Jede Massnahme soll hart,aber gerecht sein.
Das Ansehen der deutschen Solda ten verlangt dies.

Geheime Kommandosache. - K e s s e l r i n g -

Pla tzkommanda ntur 11/1012
Abt.Ia Prov.83/44 g.Kdos.

Bologna,den 14.7.44

24 Ausfertigungen.
7. Ausfertigung.

A n
saemtliche Ortskommandanturen.

Vorstehende Abschrift zur Kenntnisnahme und Beachtung uebersandt.

Verteiler im Entwurf.

Der Pla tzkommanda nt:
Ia Entw.gz.v.Tschurtschenthaler.

P. i. R. d. A.

Hauptmann.

85

ORTSKOMMANDANTUR
COVOLO

Il Comandante locale di Covolo porta a conoscenza quanto segue:

Per ogni appartenente alle Forze Armate Germaniche, sia militare che civile che venga ferito, **verranno fucilati CINQUANTA uomini** presi fra la popolazione del luogo ove è avvenuto il fatto.

Per ogni soldato o civile ucciso **verranno fucilati CENTO uomini** prelevati pure sul luogo del fatto.

In caso di più soldati o civili morti o feriti **verranno fucilati TUTTI gli uomini del luogo e la località verrà immediatamente incendiata, le donne internate e il bestiame confiscato.**

Covolo, 11 Luglio 1944.

IL COMANDANTE
Cap. Denda

P. 105

B 039819

105

H3793 – 0012

H3793 - 0013

COPY

TRANSLATION.

A

Enclosure to 3rd Copy.

Br. B. Nr. 71/42 g. Kdos. (Top Secret)
v. (of) 1. 1. 1943.

Chief Judge & Legal Adviser of
High Command SOUTH (b. O.B.S.)

H. Q., 16. 12. 1942.

Copy of Copy.

The Chief
of the High Command of the Armed Forces
Nr. 004870/42 Top Secret, Armed Forces Operations Staff/Chief Operation Office (g. Kdos. WFST./Op (N))

Subject:- Combattings of Partisans.

Top Secret.

Reports have been submitted to the Führer, that individual members of the armed forces participating in the fighting against partisans, have subsequently had to account for their actions in combat.

The Führer has therefore ordered:

1.) The enemy employs in partisan war fare communist-trained fanatics who do not hesitate to commit any atrocity. It is more than ever a question of life and death. This fight has nothing to do with soldierly gallantry or principles of the Geneva Convention.

If the fight against the partisans in the EAST as well as in the BALKANS, is not waged with the most brutal means, we will shortly reach the point when the available forces are insufficient to control this ~~post~~ area.

It is therefore not only justified, but is the duty of the troops to use all means without restriction - even against women and children - as long as it ensures success.

Any consideration for partisans is a crime against the German people and the soldier at the front who will have to bear the consequences of partisan plots, and who can see no reason whatever for showing the partisans and their followers any leniency.

The principles must also govern the application of the "Directives for combatting partisans in the EAST"

2.) No German employed against partisans will be held accountable for his actions in the fighting against them or their followers, either by disciplinary action or by Court Martial.

All Commanders of troops employed in fighting partisans are responsible that:-
The contents of this order are strongly impressed on all officers of subordinate units,

Their legal advisers are informed of this order immediately.

No judgements are confirmed, which oppose this order.

For the correctness of the copy of a copy

Oberkriegsgerichtsrat d. Lw.

Signed: KEITEL.

Certified Copy
Signed

Captain.

WAR A.G.3. OFF.

B 039820

COPY

17th June 1944.

MOST SECRET.

8 Originals
8th Original.

B

1) GHQ Staff, 10th Army,
2) GHQ Staff, 14th Army,
3) Army Group, V ZANGEN,
4) General Plenipotentiary German Armed Forces in ITALY.
5) HQ LUFTFLOTTE 2.,
6) German Naval High Command, ITALY
7) Supreme Head of SS and Police, ITALY
8) General i/c TPT ITALY,
9) Plenipotentiary of the Greater German Reich with the Italian Government, Ambassador RAHN.
10) Staff R. u. K.

Carbon Copies to:-
GOC in C SOUTH-WEST/Chief Q Branch
" " " " " /H.Q. Staff.
" " " " " " III
" " " " " Chief Liaison Off (O.T. (2 Copies)).
" " " " " OC Tech Tps.
" " " " " Gen i/c Maint of Rlys in ITALY.

Ref: TPM GOC in C SOUTH-WEST Ia No.4968/44 MOST SECRET dated 10th May 1944.

Concerning:- New measures in connection with operations against Partisans.

1. The partisan situation in the Italian theatre, particularly in Central ITALY, has recently deteriorated to such an extent, that it constitutes a serious danger to the fighting troops and their supply lines as well as to the war industry and economic potential.

The fight against the partisans must be carried on with all means at our disposal and with the utmost severity. I will protect any commander who exceeds our usual restraint, in the choice of severity of the methods he adopts against partisans. In this connection the old principle holds good, that a mistake in the choice of methods in executing one's orders, is better than failure or neglect to act. Only the most prompt and severe handling is good enough as punitive and deterrent measures to nip in the bud other outrages on a greater scale. All civilians implicated in anti-partisan operations who are apprehended in the course of reprisals, are to be brought up to the Assembly Camps which are being erected for this purpose by the Quartermaster General C in C SOUTH-WEST for ultimate despatch to the Reich as workers.

2. The combat against Partisans consists of passive and active operations with centre of gravity on the latter. The passive combat consists of protection of important buildings of historic or artistic value, railways, and roads, as well as essential installations such as power stations, factories, etc.

Even these passive operations must be conducted within the local boundaries for example, Recce Troops will constantly guard the foreground of an installation to be protected.

Active operations will be conducted especially in Partisan overrun districts where it is vital to maintain the life-line of the Armed Forces. These Partisans will have to be attacked and wiped out. Propaganda amongst Partisans (as well as use of agents) is of utmost importance.

3. The responsibility for the entire operations against Partisans in the ITALIAN theatre and the fundamental instructions for same continue to be valid with the following amendments:-

GHQ ~~Staff No.~~ 10 and ~~No.~~ 14 Armies are responsible for all operations against Partisans within their Army Sectors and Army Group V ZANGEN within the coastal belt to a depth of 30 kms. The tasks entrusted to the GOC in C OPERATIONAL ZONE ADRIATIC COAST in connection with coastal defence (in accordance with Führer Instruction No. 40) are not affected by this ruling. In the remainder of the ITALIAN THEATRE the Supreme Head of the SS and Police conducts the operations against Partisans on his responsibility, in accordance with my instructions. Details in connection with delineation of the 30 km wide strip along the coastal zones are to be settled direct between the Supreme Head of the SS and Police and Army Group V ZANGEN. The boundary between ~~GHQ Staff~~ 14th Army ~~respectively GHQ Staff~~ 10th Army and Army Group V ZANGEN QUERCIANELLA (North of ROSIGNANO) - CERTALDO-FIGLINE-SANSEPOLORA from there along road 73 to FANO (Road ~~for~~ incl. to 10th Army)

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4) ARMED FORCES for OPERATIONS against PARTISANS:-
Here one has to differentiate between:-

(a) Military units (Police forces, Govt. Troops BOHEMIA and MORAVIA etc.) who are exclusively employed for active and passive operations against Partisans. These are subordinated to the Supreme Head of the SS and Police ITALY.

(b) Task Forces and guard detachments:- For this purpose Task forces are to be formed, armed and trained by withdrawn formations, staffs and ~~duty-stations~~ units and these should be placed upon demand without any reservations, at the disposal of the local staff HQ, local Headquarters, combat commander, SS unit ~~duty-stations~~.
Outside the Army sectors and the 30 km. wide coastal strip upon the request of the Supreme Head of the SS and Police, they are to be utilised to the fullest extent for operations against Partisans in so far as the position and their other tasks permit.
The local command of operations, within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Head of the SS and Police, where units of the Wehrmacht are utilised as well, depends upon the proportionate strength of the Wehrmacht and Police forces employed.
The responsibility for the general conduct itself rests with the Supreme Head of the SS and Police ITALY.

(c) Each local Commandant is responsible for the safeguarding of his locality and immediate surroundings and this applies as well to operations against Partisans. The military local HQ areas are to be subdivided into security sectors, to be placed under the order of the leader of the Armed Forces, SS or Police, whichever is the most suitable for the task. He is fully responsible for the security within his sector. All shock troops, task forces etc. are at his disposal upon request from the local Heads. Rapid action guarantees surprise and success. Such security Commandants are especially to be appointed along the main reinforcement routes within the Army Sectors and the 30 km. wide coastal strip by the Armies or Army Group V ZANGEN with definite tasks allotted to them. Within the rest of the area, the security commanders are to be allocated by the Supreme Head of the SS and Police in collaboration with Army Group V ZANGEN and the Plenipotentiary General. They will take their orders in this district from the Supreme Head of the SS and Police, notwithstanding their belonging to part of the Armed Forces.

(d) Operations against Paratroopers will be undertaken in addition to operations against Partisans.

5) The protection of the following lines of communication are of primary importance:

(a) Railway Sections (South of the PO)

(1) ALESSANDRIA-GENOA-LA SPEZIA-LEGHORN-CECINA.
(2) CREMONA-FORNOVA-BORGA VAL DI TARO-LA SPEZIA.
(3) CASALMAGGIORE-PARMA-FORNOVA.
(4) OSTIGLIA-BOLOGNA-PISTOIA.
(5) FERRARA-BOLOGNA-PRATO-FLORENCE.
(6) FLORENCE-EMPOLI-SIENA-CHIUSI.
(7) FLORENCE-AREZZO-TERONTOLA-CHIUSI.
(8) TORONTOLA-PERUGIA-FOLIGNO.
(9) FANO-FERMIGNANO-FABRIANO.
(10) ANCONA-FABRIANO-FOLIGNO.
(11) AQUATA SCRIVIA-TORTONA-PIACENZA-PARMA-MODENA-BOLOGNA-RIMINI-ANCONA-CIVITANOVA.
(12) VIAREGGIO-LUCCA-PISTOIA-PRATO-FLORENCE.
(13) PISA-EMPOLI-FLORENCE.

(b) Roads.

(1) TORTONA-GENOA (35).
(2) PIACENZA-GENOA (45).
(3) PARMA-SARZANA (62).
(4) REGGIO-SARZANA (63).
(5) FIVIZZANO-CASTELNUOVO-BAGNI DI LUCCA.
(6) MODENA-LUCCA (12)
(7) BOLOGNA-PISTOIA-FLORENCE (64, 66).

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Roads (continued).

(8) BOLOGNA-FLORENCE (65)
(9) FORLI-FLORENCE (67)
(10) FORLI-MELDOLA-BAGNO-SANSEPOLORO-UMBERTIDE-PERUGIA.
(11) CESENA-BIBBIENA-AREZZO (71).
(12) FANO-URBINO-AREZZO (73)
(13) FANO-FOLIGNO (3)
(14) ANCONA-FABRIANO-FOSSATO (76).
(15) ANCONA-LORETO-MACERATO-FOLIGNO (16, 77).
(16) PONTEDERA-VOLTERRA-SALINE-MASSA MARITIMA-FOLLONICA.
(17) EMPOLI-POGGIBONSI-SIENA-PADICOFANI (2)
(18) FLORENCE-POGGIBONSI-CECINA (2, 68).
(19) FLORENCE-IMPRUNETA-RADDA-CASTELNUOVO-SINALUNGA.
(20) FLORENCE-AREZZO-PERUGIA (69, 75).
(21) AREZZO-SIENA-MONTE PISCALDI (73).
(22) FLORENCE-BIBIENA (70).
(23) FORLI-MELDOLA-BAGNO-SANSEPOLORO-UMBERTIDE-PERUGIA.
(24) RIMINI-PESARO-ANCONA-CIVITANOVA.

Roads of No. 2 Priority Importance.

(1) CASTELNUOVO-PIEVO POLAGO.
(2) PORETTA-SAMBUCA-PISTOIA.
(3) SASSABOL-CASTIGLIONE-PRATO.
(4) IMOLA-FIRENZUOLA-S. PIERO.
(5) FAENZA-BORGO S.LORENZO-FLORENCE.
(6) SANTARCANGELLO-SANSEPOLORO.
(7) PERSARO-URBINO.

The relative needs of the various installations and buildings of artistic and cultural value to be guarded along the railway lines is to be agreed upon on the one hand by the Armies, Army Group V ZANGEN, the Supreme Head of the SS and Police and on the other hand by the General i/c Transportation, in direct consultations. The safeguarding of the buildings of artistic and cultural value along the roads within the Army Sectors and the coastal strip are the responsibility of the Armies or Army Group V ZANGEN, outside these limits the Supreme Head of the SS and Police ITALY assumes responsibility. In this connection he is to be in close contact with G.O.C. in C SOUTH-WEST/General i/c Pioneers.

(6) So far as security of essential installations is concerned (Power Stations, Pumping Stations, Industrial undertakings etc.,) G.O.C. Tech. Troops and the Staff R.u.K is to liaise directly with the Supreme Head of the SS and Police ITALY or the Armies or Army Group V ZANGEN.

(7) For further security of the APPENINES the Armies are to post, commencing forthwith, reinforced units, Field units, road blocks etc., in accordance with operational instructions "ALARICH". These are to be located along the main passes and principal lines of reinforcement.

(8) The Supreme Head of the SS and Police ITALY is requested to submit by 25th June to G.O.C. in C SOUTH-WEST, a map (scale 1:500,000) with markings showing location of his security sectors, security troops, local security sectors, Local Commandants (Operations against Partisans) etc.

Signed: KESSELRING

G.O.C. in C. SOUTH-WEST.

Ia T. No. 0402/44 MOST SECRET.

(Signed: ?

Oberstleutnant.

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D

TRANSLATION.

AREA HEADQUARTERS

COVOLO.

The Commander of the district of COVOLA announces the following:

For every member of the German Armed Forces, whether military of civilian, who is wounded, FIFTY men, taken from the place where the deed was committed, will be shot.

For every soldier or civilian killed, ONE HUNDRED men also taken from the locality of the crime, will be shot.

In the event of more than one soldier or civilian being killed or wounded, ALL THE MEN OF THE DISTRICT WILL BE SHOT, THE HOUSES SET ON FIRE, THE WOMEN INTERNED AND THE CATTLE CONFISCATED, IMMEDIATELY.

THE COMMANDER
Cap DENDA.

Covolo.
11. Jul. 44.

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COPY.

C

TOP SECRET.

KR WAAJ/C 00104/06 1/7 1210

To: Leitkommandantur, Bologna.

SUBJECT: Combatting of Partisans.

SOURCE: Teleprint Ia Nr. 12099/44 SECRET

(After receipt to be treated as Top Secret) from 20. 6. 44.

In my appeal to the Italians I announced that severe measures are to be taken against the Partisans. This announcement must not represent an empty thrcat. It is the duty of all troops and police in my command to adopt the severest measures. Every actof violence committed by partisans must be punished immediately. Reports submitted must also give details of counter measures taken. Wherever there is evidence of considerable numbers of partisans groups, a proportion of the male population of the area will be arrested and in the event of an act of violence being committed, these men will be shot. The population must be informed of this. Should troops etc. be fired at from any village, the village will be burnt down. Perpetrators or the ring leaders will be hanged in public. Nearby villages to be held responsible for any sabotage to cables and damage inflicted to tyres. The most effective counter measure is to recruit local patrols. Members of the Fascist party will not be included in any of the reprisals. Suspects will be handed over to the prefects and a report sent to me. Every soldier will protect himself outside villages by carrying a fire-arm. District Commanders will decide in which towns it will also be necessary to carry fire arms. Every type of plunder is forbidden and will be punished severely. All countermeasures must be hard but just. The dignity of the German soldier demands it.

- KESSELRING -

Bologna, 14. 7. 44.

Platzkommandantur 11/1012
Abt. Ia Prov. 83/44 g. Kdos.

to all Ortskommandanturen.

Above mentioned copy is sent for acknowledgement.

Platzkommandant,

Tschurtschenthaler.

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G. B. EXHIBIT

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